

### In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A hand tool comprising:

(a) a frame having a distal portion and a proximal portion generally defining a first axis extending therebetween, said proximal portion having at least one proximal end;

(b) a working element operably coupled to a distal end of said distal portion, said working element having a working portion that is oriented along a first direction with respect to said frame;

(c) a handle means pivotally coupled to said frame at a portion thereof intermediate said proximal end and said distal end, said handle means having a pivot axis substantially perpendicular to said first axis; and

(d) a brace means operably coupled to said proximal end of said frame, said brace means being configured to operably brace against an upper side of a user's forearm while the user operably grasps said handle means.

2. (original) A hand tool as in Claim 1 wherein said proximal portion of said frame diverges from said intermediate portion into two spaced apart and substantially parallelly disposed proximal members.

3. (original) A hand tool as in Claim 2 wherein said brace means extends between said proximal members.

4. (original) A hand tool as in Claim 1 wherein said brace means is fabricated from a resilient material.

5. (original) A hand tool as in Claim 1 wherein said working element is removably secured to said frame.

6. (currently amended) ~~A hand tool as in Claim 1~~ A hand tool comprising:

(a) a frame having a distal portion and a proximal portion, said proximal portion having at least one proximal end;

(b) a working element operably coupled to a distal end of said distal portion, said working element having a working portion that is oriented along a first direction with respect to said frame;

(c) a handle means pivotally coupled to said frame at a portion thereof intermediate said proximal end and said distal end; and

(d) a brace means operably coupled to said proximal end of said frame, said brace means being configured to operably brace against an upper side of a user's forearm while the user operably grasps said handle means;

(e) wherein said handle means includes a coupling means for pivoting and locking engagement with said intermediate portion of said frame, said coupling means having one or more pivoting engagement receptacles and spaced from one or more locking engagement receptacles integrally formed therewith.

7. (original) A hand tool as in Claim 6 wherein said coupling means is configured to lockingly engage to said frame such that said handle means is operably and detachably fixed in an orientation along a second direction with respect to said frame, which second direction is substantially opposed to said first direction.

8. (original) A hand tool as in Claim 1 wherein said handle means is removably securable to said frame.

9. (new) A hand tool comprising:

(a) a frame having a distal portion and a proximal portion, said proximal portion having at least one proximal end;

(b) a working element operably coupled to a distal end of said distal portion;

(c) a handle means disposed at a coupling portion of said frame intermediate said proximal end and said distal end, said coupling portion including two diverging proximal frame members and a distal frame member together defining a first plane at said coupling portion;

(d) a pivot means pivotally coupling said handle means to said coupling portion of said frame, said pivot means providing selectable pivotal motion to said handle means between a first axial direction substantially perpendicular to said first plane and a second axial direction substantially parallel to said first plane; and

(e) a brace means operably coupled to said proximal frame members, said brace means being configured to operably brace against an upper side of a user's forearm while the user operably grasps said handle means.

10. (new) A hand tool as in Claim 9 wherein said proximal frame members are spaced apart and substantially parallelly disposed with respect to one another.

11. (new) A hand tool as in Claim 9 wherein said brace means extends between said proximal members.

12. (new) A hand tool as in Claim 9 wherein said brace means is fabricated from a resilient material.

13. (new) A hand tool as in Claim 9 wherein said working element is removably secured to said frame.